

BACKGROUND FOR A DOUBLE STAR

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had duly married, she had, in addition, personal attributes—good looks, brains (possibly rather too obvious) and social talents—marking her out as a hostess and *grande dame*, which made her action really treachery

So some thought There were however, others Socialism was not respectable That was, for some, its one title to respect They did not know much about it but, if it was not respectable it was so far, good The 'nineties had their iconoclasts If they were few, they were shrill. Isms of all sorts flourished, fostered and tended by eager sects There were cotenes—earnest, humanitarian, artistic,—with which it was an article of faith that any day might witness a general smashing of conventions and accepted ideas While the aesthetic movement was leading some to feed on lilies and clothe themselves in odd garments, dyed and made by hand, others were flocking east to Toynbee Hall, which the Barnetts had founded in 1885 as a challenge to the Chanty Organisation Society and all its ways and works There, grave young men were saving their souls by debating at night with Marxian tailors, lest they should lose them in the Civil Seivice during the day For them, Miss Potter seemed to be waving a grand banner of defiance

In any event, the marriage was a nine days' conversational theme Its real interest, as is the case with any marriage, depended on an acquaintance with the characters and histories of the principals, such as few of

those who
chatted about it possessed A certain number
of persons
thought that they knew all about Beatnce few
and far
between were those who claimed any such
knowledge of
Sidney Children of their age of course they
both were
indeed, m eminent degree typical of it If it
had treated
them very differently up to the time of their
meeting,
they did yet share a common mental climate
That was
important, since, unlike as they were in
background and
in upbringing, in the place from which they
had come